

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 NEAE-00 ACDA-05 SSO-00

NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OC-05 CCO-00

SY-05 A-01 OPR-02 FSI-01 FBO-02 SCCT-01 AID-05 DHA-02

OMB-01 SCS-03 SCA-01 SAM-01 /108 W

----- 083564

O R 311555Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6973

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK

COMSIXTHFLT

CTF SIX ZERO

CTF SIX ONE

CTF SIX TWO

CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO

FOSIF ROTA SPAIN

FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA

DIA WASHDC

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CIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 13588

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, LE

SUBJECT: CEASEFIRE APPEARS IN LIMBO

REF: BEIRUT 13516 (30 OCT 75 1535Z)

SUMMARY: ALTHOUGH OCT 29 CEASEFIRE HAS APPARENTLY STIFLED MOST CLASHES IN BEIRUT, CONTENDING MILITIAS STILL OCCUPY POSITION ON KANTARI FRONT AND EXCHANGES PICKED UP BETWEEN 1100 AND 1400 THIS MORNING AFTER RELATIVELY QUIET NIGHT. MOST ACCESS ROUTES INTO CITY ARE INSECURE, BUT SITUATION APPEARS MOST ACUTE IN DAMOUR AREA WHERE CHRISTIAN AND MOSLEMS HAVE APPARENTLY EXCHANGED OUTRAGES. PRIMIN KARAME PRONOUNCED HIMSELF "HOPEFUL" AT 1400 LOCAL, BUT ADMITTED THAT SECURITY SITUATION NOT YET FULLY UNDER CONTROL. REDUCED LEVEL OF STRIFE IN MOST PARTS OF CITY HAS NOT YET TEMPTED CITIZENS TO RESUME NORMAL ECONOMIC ACTIVITY AND, MEANWHILE, REPORTS CONTINUE OF SABOTAGE ACTIVITIES AGAINST FACTORIES, ETC., AND ATTENDANT DESTRUCTION OF EMPLOYMENT. GOL APPEALS TO NON-GOVERNMENTAL HOSPITAL AND PRIVATE DOCTORS SUGGEST MASSIVE CASUALTIES BUT MOST OBSERVERS HAVE LONG AGO LOST COUNT. AIRPORT IS OPERATING WITH CONTINUING OUTFLOW, BUT TO DATE SCHEDULED AYT- TIME FLIGHTS HAVE PROVEN SUFFICIENT FOR PASSENGER DEMAND. END SUMMARY.

1. DAWN OCT 31 BROUGHT END TO INTERMITTENT SHOWERS WHICH ASSISTED IN MAINTAINING CLASHES AT RELATIVELY LOW LEVEL OVERNIGHT. HALLOWEEN DAY BEGAN AS "TREAT" WITH HOPES THAT OCT 29 CEASEFIRE HAD BEGUN TO TAKE HOLD AND, DESPITE SOME AUDIBLE AUTOMATIC WEAPONS FIRE AT APPROX 0630 LOCAL FROM HOTEL DISTRICT, ASST ARMY G-2 ABBAS HAMDAN TOLD DAO IN EARLY MORNING THE SITUATION THROUGHOUT CITY WAS IMPROVING IF IT PROVED POSSIBLE TO CONTROL "COMMUNISTS." OTHER REPORTS ESTIMATED THAT CEASEFIRE WAS 90 PERCENT EFFECTIVE AS OF ABOUT 0900 LOCAL. STROLL AT 1030 LOCAL BY CANE-SWINGING IBRAHIM QULEILAT THROUGH AIN MREISSEH (HE WAS CLEARLY DISTINGUISHABLE FROM AMB'S OFFICE) AND RELATIVE QUIET IN EMBASSY NEIGHBORHOOD SUGGESTED CONFIDENTIAL

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IMPLEMENTATION OF CEASEFIRE PROVISIONS CALLING FOR PHALANGE ABANDONMENT OF HOLIDAY INN, PHOENICIA AND ST. GEORGES (TO BE REPLACED BY ISF) AND LEFTISTS FROM UNFINISHED AL MURR TOWER BLDG. (AY WESTERN TERMINUS OF F AVENUE FUAD CHEHAB) IN FAVOR OF PALESTINE ARMED STRUGGLE COMMAND (PASC). UPSURGE IN FIRING AND OCCASIONAL CLUMPS OF MORTAR SHELLS ALMOST IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING QULEILAT'S JAUNT, HOWEVER, RAISED DOUBTS THAT THIS DISENGAGEMENT HAD OCCURRED--DOUBTS

THAT WE WERE ABLE TO CONFIRM AT 1245 LOCAL WHEN WE MANAGED TO CONTACT PHOENICIA MANAGER (HOLED UP IN BASEMENT BALLROOM WITH 50 EMPLOYEES AND ONE LEBANESE GUEST) WHO REPORTS THAT PHALANGE STILL OCCUPY HOTEL AND PROBABLY HOLIDAY INN AS WELL. FOR TIME BEING, BEIRUT'S "TREAT" HAS BECOME DISILLUSIONING "TRICK".

2. WE HAVE LIMITED DATA ON CONDITIONS IN REST OF CITY BECAUSE NIGHT'S RAIN RENDERED EMBASSY PHONES INOPERATIVE TEMPORARILY. NEWSPAPERS REPORT THAT ACCESS ROADS FROM JOUNEH AND BABDA ARE INSECURE AND ROAD SOUTH IS CUT IN VICINITY OF DAOUR WHERE WE UNDERSTAND RESIDENTS HAVE DESTROYED ROADBED. THIS ACTION BY CHRISTIAN ELEMENTS AS WELL AS REPORTED KIDNAPPING OF UPWARDS OF 300 SUNNI MUSLIM FROM NEARBY NAAME AND ACTS OF HARASSMENT AND TERRORISM BY 200 ARMED MEN AGAINST MONKS AT MARONITE MONASTERY ADJACENT TO DAMOUR HAVE RAISED TEMPERATURES IN THAT LOCALITY TO FEVER PITCH AND COULD AFFECT OTHER REGIONS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT CHAMOUN AND JUMBLATT ARE IN CONTACT TO DEFUSE SITUATION IN AREA WHERE THEY HAVE GREAT INFLUENCE AND THAT LATTER HAS PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED THAT HE WILL OPEN DAMOUR BY FORCE IF COMPROMISE NOT REACHED. ZAHLE IS ALSO REPORTED TO BE VERY TENSE. SO FAR AS WE CAN DETERMINE, TRIPOLI IS QUIET.

3. PRIMIN KARAME IS UNDOUBTEDLY ACTIVE IN ATTEMPTING TO PUT CEASEFIRE ON THE TRACK, BUT WE HAVE ONLY SCANTY INFORMATION REGARDING POLITICAL ACTIVITY AT MOMENT. MAJOR QUESTION MARK ON POLITICAL HORIZON IN VIEW OF CONTINUED VIOLATIONS OF OCT 29 CEASEFIRE, IS POSSIBILITY THAT KARAME MAY GO TO BRINK OF RESIGNATION (OR BEYOND?) ONCE AGAIN IF DISENGAGEMENT OF COMBATANTS NOT ACHIEVED SOON. FOR THE RECORD, PARLIAMENT HAS NO PLANS AT MOMENT TO MEET. SECURITY COMMITTEE STUMBLING ALONG WITH TAQLA, CHAMOUN, GEMAYEL, AND CONFIDENTIAL

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JUMBLATT NOT RPT NOT PARTICIPATING (JUMBLATT IS MAKING OCCASIONAL APPEARANCES AT SERAIL BUT INSISTS HE SEEING PRIMIN AND NOT JOINING SECURITY COMMITTEE). "NATIONAL DIALOGUE COMMITTEE" INACTIVE AND THERE NO RPT NO INDICATION OF SCHEDULED SESSIONS FOR ANY OF THE THREE SUBCOMMISSIONS. REPS OF CHRISTIAN MONKS (WITH EXCEPTION OF GREEK ORTHODOX AND PROTESTANTS) ALLEGEDLY MEETING REGULARLY AND INDICATIONS ARE THAT THEY CONTEMPLATE SUBMITTING MEMORANDUM TO DIALOGUE COMMITTEE.

4. AT 1400 LOCAL, RADIO LEBANON BROADCAST A STATEMENT BY PRIMIN KARAME AT SERAIL EXPRESSING "HOPE" REGARDING SITUATION, ALTHOUGH ACKNOWLEDGING SOME "GAPS" IN STATE OF SECURITY WHICH MUST BE SHORED UP. KARAME STRESSED THAT CURRENT STRIFE IS INTERNAL LEBANESE PROBLEM WHICH LEBANESE

THEMSELVES MUST SOLVE AND EXPRESSED GRATITUDE TO THOSE NATIONS WHICH HAD STATED THEIR CONCERN AND SUPPORT FOR LEBANON. HE CONCLUDED THAT, ONCE AN AGREED "REFORM PROGRAM" WAS DEvised BY LEBANESE, GOL WOULD APPRECIATE SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE OF INTERESTED COUNTRIES.

5. GENERAL DECREASE IN LEVEL OF VIOLENCE HAS STIMULATED FEW SIGNS OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITY. SHOPS ALONG HAMRA REMAIN CLOSED: SIDEWALK VENDORS ARE OUT IN SOME NUMBERS AND TRAFFIC THERE IS COMPARATIVELY HEAVY. FEW STORES ARE OPEN IN OTHER PARTS OF TOWN WITH EXCEPTION OF GROCERIES AND BAKERIES. MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE OSSEIRAN HAS ANNOUNCED THAT 2,000 TONS OF FLOUR FROM SYRIA BEING DISTRIBUTED IN THE EKA VALLEY AND SOUTH OF COUNTRY.

6. IN LAST FEW DAYS, SABOTEURS HAVE DESTROYED AT LEAST THREE MAJOR FACTORIES, ONE OF WHICH ESTIMATED TO EMPLOY 600 PERSONS. PUBLIC HOSPITALS ARE NOW CROWDED TO CAPACITY AND GOL HAS APPEARED TO PRIVATE HOSPITALS TO TAKE IN WOUNDED AND FOR PRIVATE PHYSICIANS TO ACCEPT PATIENTS IN THEIR CLINICS AND HOMES. CALL FOR DONATIONS OF BLOOD ARE BEING BROADCAST FREQUENTLY.

7. AIRPORT IS CROWDED BUT STILL OPERATING NORMALLY DURING DAYLIGHT HOURS. AS REGIONAL AIR CENTER, WHOSE NORMAL AIR TRAFFIC IS CURRENTLY GREATLY REDUCED, BEIRUT HAS BEEN ABLE TO

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HANDLE EXODUS SO FAR WITHOUT SPECIAL FLIGHTS. CONTRARY TO INFORMATION CONTAINED STATE 258142, PANAM FLIGHT ONE RPT ONE LANDED OCT 31 AND, ACCORDING TO LOCAL PANAM REP, IT IS SCHEDULED FOR NOV 1. OTHER PANAM FLIGHTS, HOWEVER, HAVE BEEN SCRATCHED. MEA, WHICH HANDLES ABOUT 55 PERCENT OF PASSENGER TRAFFIC THROUGH AIRPORT IN NORMAL TIMES, REPORTS FLIGHTS TO CAIRO BOOKED THROUGH NOV 4 AND FLIGHTS TO ATHENS AND AMMAN ALMOST COMPLETELY FULL TODAY AND NEXT SEVERAL DAYS. SPACE REMAINS AVAILABLE ON FLIGHTS TO OTHER LOCATIONS. CONFUSION AT AIRPORT OCCASIONED PRIMARILY BY SHORTAGE OF TICKETING AND PROCESSING PERSONNEL RATHER THAN LACK OF LIFT CAPACITY.  
GODLEY

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## Message Attributes

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